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Interviewed by Ellen Kiever

Transcribed by Ellen Kiever

Today we are with Barney Goodman in the North Conference Room of the Uintah County Building. We are gathering his history and we are really excited to have him tell us about his life.

Ellen: Barney why don't you start by telling us where you were born and about your parents.

Barney: I was born in 1916 and Glendale, Texas, Route 3. Dr. Gibson was my doctor, he delivered me. It is about two and a half miles east of Lindale, Smith County, and Tyler, Texas is the county seat. I was raised there on my grandpa's place till I was nine years old and then we moved to southwestern Oklahoma to the town of Eldorado. I learnt' to pick cotton there. Long before that we pioneered the places we lived on. The brush was so thick you couldn't see fifteen feet in it. The brush out there was big enough for me and I was about seven and eight years old, but I had to work.

ESK: Did you clear the brush off the land?

BG: Yah. We put a farm on it. We made a nice farm out of it. A lot of ground, but anyway we went from there to Eldorado, Oklahoma, and I had a man and his wife, they were expert cotton pickers from California, they learnt' me how to pick cotton. I could pick almost as much cotton as my sister, my brother and my father. After a year or two I could pick more cotton than both of them. He [Father] kept me out of school and I have a fourth grade education. That's all I've got. They got on him for keeping me out of school and he said, "Well he's my bread winner. I've got to have him."

ESK: You always had a good job?

BG: Well I had to work. It wasn't a good job but it was somethin' you had to work to make a livin'. In later years he got pretty rough on me. He [Father] was pretty mean to me. He beat me twice till the blood run down in my shoes.

ESK: Had you done something terrible?

BG: No, I hadn't went off the place. I don't know. He just got mad and took it out on me. Anyway my dad and mother separated. After that we was doin' pretty good.

ESK: You went with you mother?

BG: Yah, I was with my mother.

ESK: Was you still in Oklahoma at this time?

BG: She stayed there. When we first went up there in 1926, we worked for people by the

name of Darby. We made seventy-five dollars a week. It wasn't a lot of money in them days. He would go to town on Saturday morning and when he come back he would have about ten to twelve dollars worth of groceries and not have a dime. He worked us to death for his pleasure that he was gettin' out of somethin'. I don't know what it was. It was alright. I lived over it. I've lived to be ninety so I guess I'm doin' alright.

ESK: And you did better with your mother?

BG: Oh yah. I worked out for fifty cents a day and my board and room. I worked way after sundown to way before daylight.

ESK: What did you do Barney?

BG: We was farmin'. I helped this old man milk about forty to sixty cows by hand. We had those cows milked and we had our breakfast in us and we was sittin' and could feel when it come daylight and see that it was time to get up get the team and get to the farming, then I went in and undone the team, took em' in, went in and washed up, went to the cow corrals, milked them cows. There were several of us milkin' em. If you wasn't to tired you could eat your supper that night before you went to bed.

ESK: Oh my Barney, you worked hard.

BG: You know, I've seen some rough times and you know it was during the depression and we went into eastern Oklahoma for a while down there and they give me three .22 bullets and I had to bring back two squirrels to feed the family—so I did it. Sometimes I would use all three of em' but I sometimes I only used the two. You had to learn how to shoot the gun in west Texas. Back into western Oklahoma and we was havin' a tough time makin' livin'. You couldn't raise nothin'. Everything burnt up, I would go down in Prairie Dog town and use a piece of barbed wire and fix a deal and twist the cottontails right out of the hole and that's what we had for dinner. Supper was the same way.

ESK: Did your mother make soup or did she fry them?

BG: Fry em'.

ESK: Same way with the squirrels?

BG: Yah!

ESK: Did you have plenty of potatoes and other vegetables?

BG: No, you couldn't raise potatoes down there where we was at. You had to have money to buy the potato that come from other places. We didn't have irrigation water down there like they got here. You couldn't irrigate with the water down there. It is a gypsum type of water and it would kill the plants to water with it so you couldn't irrigate nothin'. We had a feller come in there to show how to irrigate and anyway he irrigated and show the

people how to farm and he got his plants all up from the rain in the spring. He irrigated it and it killed it all. He had to leave the country.

ESK: So they depend on rain for their crops. Total Dry Farming.

BG: Yah, Rain, yah, they dry farmed. I seen them raise awful good crops and I seen when it didn't raise any to. We had a real hard life. People in this country don't know what hard times is like. They did down there. My father was a very poor provider for the family. Believe you me that is one thing that I tried to do is feed my family. I married a lady the first time she was a twin and her father took her with him and he had some dump trucks. He hauled gravel on highways and stuff. It was all dirt roads in them days. Every time she would squawk at something, why he would buy it for her and it spoiled her. Her twin sister stayed with the mother and she is one of the nicest ladies that you would ever want to meet. My wife was spoiled so bad I never done anything [right] ever in all the years, we went back and forth, in the years we separated and back and separated and back, I never done one thing that I could ever remember of ever suitin' her. I got a chance to leave from down there, so I left and I come up here. I was here sixty-one years on the 12th of July.

ESK: So you came here in 1945?

BG: 1945, I was drilling for Loughlind in the Ranglely field. But I'm gettin' ahead of myself. I want to go back to when I went into the oil field in Illinois. I went to work for B.F Walker Trucking Company. I worked for them for several years. Then I went into the drilling department. I went up into the Mindota country, up there 100 miles east of Chicago. I signed up for the draft in that area when they had World War II. Anyway, the place was Bureau County, Illinois. I finally left there and went back down to Winsboro, Texas, and I worked for Rowen Drilling Company. I worked for them for a long time but before that I hauled lumber out of Tyler to defense jobs to South Texas and West Texas, Willowfield and San Angelo and all over. I hauled lumber all over the country there. This old German bought all the lumber. He had a contract and he would take all the lumber they could sale. He had the lumber business really sewed up in that country. We had nine trucks that we hauled with. Sometimes we would have to hire a truck to finish up a contract.

ESK: I didn't realize that there was that size of lumber in Texas.

BG: Well, I seen one tree that stuck out over the wheels. So they had trees down there, you bet they did. I seen em' come in, I waited till they brought the logs in and it still had some of the green limbs on it. They sawed it and put it on my truck and when I got in there and got it unloaded you could have washed your face off with the water that was on the bed of my truck. It was runnin' out of it so bad. It was real heavy wood. [There are] A lot of those army camps down there. We hauled it up into west Texas to that air base out there. We hauled old floorin' out there. We was tryin' to[get them to] let us haul it back to Tyler cause that was where it was goin' to go but they wouldn't do it. We had to unload it and sign it out and they'll ship it back when they got ready to ship it back.

ESK: Were you married at this time?

BG: Yah. To my first wife. I left and went to Illinois and she come out there about a year and a half later and then we got back together and then we was only together about ten days til' she blowed up and was goin' to go back to Texas cause one of the brothers was goin' back and they wouldn't let her go back. They made her come back to me. When we left there in the later part of 1941 and come back down into Tyler and that is when I went to hauling lumber down there. I went to work for Rowen Drilling Company. I worked for them till I come out here in 1945.

ESK: Then you came out here and drilled in the Ranglely Oil Field.

BG: Yah. I used to be a driller for Loughland. Me and Leah, when we got acquainted we left here and went to California. Then we left California and went to Odessa, Texas, and worked down there for Rowen Drilling Company for a while. I went from there to Houston, Texas, and then back to where my mother lived in California. I worked for Loughland Brothers out there. When we left there I was real sick. We left there and come back to Vernal. While I was workin' for Rowen Drilling Company down there in the equipment field I went to a specialist in Ville Platte, Louisiana, people would not let em' up there in the Mayo Clinic. He mostly cured most of those people with his patent medicine. He took me in his office and the X-rayed me and Fluoroscoped me. They went through that big deal. He sat in there and talked to me for about thirty minutes. As busy as he was he still took thirty minutes for me. He charged me sixteen dollars for a three month supply of medicine and all of that stuff. He said, "I don't want to make money off the little guy. It's the big guys that I'm after." He said, "I'd get a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars for the same thing I done to you." He was quite a guy. His name was Aurey Dupree. Now I have remembered that all these years.

ESK: Well, he took good care of you.

BG: Oh yeah. He told me, he give me eight months to live. I had ulcers that bad. I had a rough life at home. I paid a full price for what I did. When I come out here, after I quite workin' in the oil field, I got tired of that and so I went to work for Uintah County. I worked for them for twenty years. There was one time when the county got a new fire truck. The factory people were here to try it out. They wanted to take it out and try it and they had me take some boards and put across canal, there by Asher Merkley's house. Well by the time that they got there, Asher's house was on fire and we got to really demonstrate it. I worked hundreds and hundreds of hours that nobody knows anything about, more or less the commissioners, because I owed that to my country here. I wanted to pay my debt to my country. That's the one way I had of payin' it and tryin' to be a citizen. I vote on every election. I have for many years. I think that we all should do it. It is a privilege that we have to do it. I'm not sayin' what I belong to or anything like that but that is a personal thing. I wouldn't want to hurt anybodies feelings, that ain't my way of livin'. Everybody knows me, knows I'm that way. I finally went to work haulin' tires for Grant Southam out of Finley, Ohio. We unloaded tires in Craig, Colorado; Vernal, Utah; and

Salt Lake City, Utah.

ESK: Was this when Grant had the Superior Tire Store [280 North Vernal Ave.]?

BG: Yah. We was haulin' for them. Then I couldn't stand that on the road all the time so I quit there and I went to work for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I worked for them for five years and I bought a Cat[erpillar] and I went into business for myself and had that for seventeen years. When I sold it they thought I was going to die, but I've out lived everybody else.

ESK: So what did you do with the Cat?

BG: I done dozer work. I done some for your dad [Milt Searle] up there. Done some for your relation, I done a lot for Woodey [Searle]. Done quite a bit for Woodey. I worked for everybody. I even went back over there and done some work that they couldn't do with a heavy cat. My cat was light enough that I could get in those swamps without gettin' stuck. If I did, we could get it out. We couldn't get one of those big ones out. Seventeen years later and they sold my Cat and they bout' give me up to die, but I'm still here. That has been about twelve, maybe fourteen years ago.

ESK: Well you would probably still be riding and doing things if you had it. Dad thinks he can get on his little tractor and rule the world. Mother says he is going to kill himself on it.

BG: My brother-in-law told me he said, "Barney, why don't you get rid of that. You are goin' die up in the seat of that." I said, "Where is a better place to die." One of the things I want to have in mine is that my nephews, Alan and Daryl Hacking and my brother-in-law, John Hacking has really helped me throughout the years. My father-in-law, Milt Hacking has helped me, so has my mother-in-law, Mary Hacking. Only people who has really helped me throughout the years. We appreciate it very much. We want people to know that we ain't going to leave them out.

ESK: Can we talk about you family? You said you were married to the lady in Texas. Can you tell me about your children.

BG: I got three daughters, dead. The daughter [Karen] by me and Leah got killed in a car wreck. I had a daughter by my first wife that drank herself to death. The other one died with diabetes. I got one now that is about to go, she will be the last daughter I got. My son [Jim] with Leah here, he has got Leukemia. He can't work. He can't do any kind of strained work, water just runs down his face, off his head. He is not very good at all. His medicine is \$36,000 a year. The insurance is takin' care of it. If it hadn't been for that he would be dead. I don't know how long he is goin' to last. That girl in Van, Texas, she has about had it. I don't know whether I am goin' to out live em' or not. Leah and I had two children, a girl and a boy.

ESK: Karen and Jim

BG: Jim was with the Air Force for twenty years. He retired out of the Air Force. He was the safety man. He went into the safety business for himself. He worked for Haliburton for a while. He went overseas workin' on a safety deal. He got real sick and he had to give it up.

ESK: When you were small, what were your holidays like.

BG: Not much. When we were workin for that Darby there at Eldorado, I was close to ten years old and we didn't have no Christmas. It was rainin' and you couldn't pick the cotton with it wet. You had to wait till' it dried out. Some people gave us some money so us kids could have Christmas. He [Dad] only bought a little stuff with it and done somethin' else with the money. We had a rough life tryin' to live with the old man.

ESK: Did you ever have anything more to do with him in your life

BG: Ya, I went back down there and lived with him in Tyler. I went from Eldorado, Oklahoma, back down to Tyler. I lived with him for a couple of years down there. Then I got married and went out on my own.

ESK: On our way up to this room you were telling me about your philosophies of life? About the character of a man?

BG: A man's character is very important.

ESK: Can you remember the things we talked about?

BG: Well, no I don't. When you get ninety years old you don't remember to good. I miss a lot of stuff.

ESK: Can we go back and try to cover some things that you might enjoy reading or for someone that cares about you. You have a grandson that lives with you, tell us about him.

BG: He was raised in a very bad atmosphere as far as I'm concerned. He doesn't know what he should know. He doesn't think things are wrong but I'm teachin' him. I'm comin' along with him real well. He is doin' real well. He's working for Jimmy Justice runnin' construction. They're not payin' him the top wages but he is learnin' somethin'. That is somethin'. A lot of people wouldn't hire him unless he had so many years experience. You can't put em' on a \$250,000 cat just to have em' tear it up. That cat has got enough power in it to tear it to pieces. Even if it is on, you can bust it to pieces. He is doin' real well. He gets up on his own and goes. I don't go to bed to early. I stay up cause I can't lay in bed to long. I don't have anything to do. When I get up I go down to have breakfast and things like that. He gets up, he has to leave about a quarter after six every morning and he don't get in till late, eight or nine o'clock, maybe ten.

ESK: He doesn't have much time to do anything else but work, which is good for him.

BG: No, and that is what they wanted me to do. He's under probation and he supposed to work and that is what I've done. I done what I told them I would do. His father don't seem to like but I've done it right. His father don't know the difference either. He was raised different but he forgot it.

ESK: Can we talk a little about you and Leah?

BG: She had several boyfriends and why she picked me, I don't know. We were married fifty-seven years. When she passed away four years ago the 22nd of this July. I aint't married again cause I can't find nobody to stand in her shoes. I know there is a lot of good ones out there but they couldn't put up with me. I never wanted to do anything now that she is gone, for not doin' this and not doin' that. I said I'm doin' things she requested me to do and I'm goin' to do em'. That's how much I love my wife. I'm doin' what I agreed to do with her. I'm takin' care of everything that way.

ESK: I was just a little girl when you and Leah moved back here. Around there on the corner where you live now. I remember you coming to our house and you've always been such a wonderful man.

BG: I don't like to be somethin' I'm not. I'm just me and that's the way I want it. I just want to be me. I don't want to be somebody else. I'm no better or no worse than I really am. I believe that rather than kidding somebody that mistreatin' people is next to it. When you do wrong to other people it's bad. It's a bad thing and I think the God is goin' to hold it again' ya. I believe in tryin' to live with my fellow men. I've been that way a long time. I know a commissioner that was quite religious. He told me how religious I was and I told him, "Well, don't misunderstand me I'm not really that religious, I just don't like to mistreat people. I think that's a bad thing." That covers a lot of ground when you say you don't want to mistreat em'. You can do it in a lot of ways.

ESK: You were not raised with any religion?

BG: My dad was kind of a Baptist Preacher. He tried to rule with an iron fist and it didn't work. Not far as I'm concerned and neither did the other kids like it either. I never belonged to no church.

ESK: But you want to have your funeral in the Mormon Church.

BG: That's right. I want my services in there. I had my daughter's in there. My friends, I've got some of the gooder friends as a person on earth would want. They're high up in the church and I'm not going to condemn somethin' that they belong to. I'm not going to do it.

ESK: They told me to ask you about is the snow that you pushed for Uintah County. You pushed the snow on Main Street when it was real deep. Was that an experience that you didn't really want to do because of where you came from in Texas?

BG: No. I wanted to do it. I made a lot of mistakes. I went over on Brush Creek with the motor grader pushin' the snow over there and I learnt somethin' when you're in a hurry which you usually do when you make a mistake is to not leave your doors open floppin' around when your stuck with a motor grader because you can tear both doors off it. Then you leave the road bad where they can't come and get you and you have to walk from Whitey Ainge's plum out to the dump ground hill cause that is a far as they could come to get me. I learnt to clean that good enough so that somebody could follow me. I pushed snow all over the county. I pushed Deep Creek, Power Plant, and Brush Creek up this way with a Cat. I pushed all the snow down here with a grader and a snow plow, most of it with a snow plow.

ESK: We used to have so much snow.

BG: Oh yeah. There was four foot on the level that one year. I pushed the airport down there and when they called me I was up there on the hill by the dump ground. They said for me to get down to the airport, the plane can't land, and push that snow. It was snowin' real hard then. When I got down there, there was eighteen inches in the middle of the runway. I pushed on it all night and the next morning I went over and took my stake and there was still eighteen inches in the middle. It had snowed that much that night. I got in to fuel my truck and get me a bite to eat. If I had starved to death I would not have been able to push snow, I was about to do it. I was about to fall apart. I got a call, they said, "Why haven't you pushed that snow." They said, "The plane can't land." I said, "That's right, when I started they was eighteen inches in the middle and they had eighteen inches this morning." It snowed that much over night.

ESK: So we had thirty-six inches of snow in a twenty-four hour period. It hasn't snowed like that for a long time has it Barney.

BG: The got more money to work with now. They got the snow blowers and stuff like that. I tried to get them to let me push the snow from around the landing lights on the runway there. "Oh no, we are going to see if we can make it to spring," they said. They was a little short of money. I said, "When you want me to push that snow, we are going to shear some lights off cause they got some shearing deals on there and there a little loose right now." The snow pushes about twenty feet in head of you because it was crusted that bad with that old Cat. I sheared a lot of them off. They said, "Well, we was told so," and I said, "Yah, I did. I remember telling you that." I said, "I guess you had a right to say no." That's the way the cookie crumbles down there.

ESK: I really miss the snow like we used to have when I was growing up.

BG: We might get that this year. One extreme follows another they say. This heat that we have had this year has been exceptional hot to me.

ESK: It has really been warm this year. So you have done a lot of things. You have drilled oil, you've drove trucks, you've ran construction equipment, you've rode horses and cowboyed. You said something about cowboying on our way up here. Tell me about your

cowboying days.

BG: Well I was on the Vernal Rodeo Committee for twenty-eight years. Down there [Texas or Oklahoma] I broke twenty-seven head of horses in one year. You could lower em'. You could do anything you wanted with em' because I worked with em'. You don't have time anymore to do them kind of things. I had a lot of time down there and I broke em'. I broke one seventeen. There was one horse, it was spoiled but I broke it. It had really been abused and mistreated and I the way I had been, I kind of understood what it had been through. I thought that poor horse. I could ride at night and be over at the house. In them days it got real dark at night. Me and another guy was ridin' it double. Down in that country, everything is in sections, a mile this way and a mile here and a mile here, anyway they closed that off, the guys do, and keeps us off up here and this guy up here and this guy down here would close it down and sometimes them gates is open and sometimes they closed. Them horses is really scared of wire, really scared of wire, and when it got into that fence it stopped just like that. Well, they are bringing the gates up so we are goin' to open the gate. He jumped off, opened the gate and we went on through.

ESK: When some horses get into wire they fight it and it just makes it worse.

BG: The horse just walked up to the fence and the wire touched its breast like that and it just stopped. It couldn't see that fence. I don't think it could see as dark as it was. I couldn't see it. It might have seen it and I didn't give it the signal to stop. I stopped on its own.

ESK: Did you do any type of cowboying up here. Herding cows or anything like that.

BG: I punched cows up there with Ray Sprouse. We was up there and it snowed, we was up there gatherin' strays.

ESK: Up Where?

BG: Up between North Fork and South Fork, up Red Cloud Loop country. The snow was pretty deep. Wylo Mackey was ridin' one of my spoiled horses I had and he rode it down into Red Pine Setting, as much snow as there was but it went down in there.

ESK: Red Pine Setting, isn't that awfully steep?

BG: Oh yah, it's real steep. It's rock. We went up there and was ridin' around and your vision wasn't to far. We made a complete circle and come back around and he said I wonder who them blame fools is. He laughed. I said, "You mean to tell me, I'm following a guy that don't know where he is going." He laughed and said, "I guess so." Ray said, "We're lost ain't we." I said, "No, I'm not lost." He said, "Where are we?" and I said, "Ray, I'm with you."

ESK: What do you think your biggest challenge in life was?

BG: Tryin' to satisfy my first wife. Thank God I've got a second time around. She put up with

me for fifty-seven years. I believe that she was a pretty good wife. A lot of em' didn't like their ma-in-law and pa-in-law but I loved my ma and pa-in-law. They were the greatest people as far as I'm concerned on face of the earth. I know they asked me to do something for them and I would go do it. I done it.

ESK: What do you want people to remember about you?

BG: I don't want them to think I'm somethin' I'm not. That is one of the main things I want to do. I want them it's ol' Barney and that's it. I tell you one thing I wouldn't mistreat nobody. That is my way of livin. It's my christianity. I had an ol' patriarch tell me that is a mighty fine way of livin. I've tried to live that way. I believe in payin' your debts. I believe in doin' what you say you'll do. I'm not sayin' I've not made some mistakes because I have. I'm not perfect cause the only feller that is perfect is the old feller that walks on water. He's perfect. Some people don't think so but he is.

ESK: Tell me about your bothers and sisters

BG: Well, my oldest brother, most of his life he was a mechanic. He done mechanic work on cars.

ESK: How much older was he.

BG: He was born in 1901. My dad and mother was born in the United States but both of their parents come from the old country. My dad's mother was a German. She was related to the **Wilhelms**. I don't know which way, I was to little to remember and nobody seems to know. My grandfather Goodman, Jesse Goodman, he come from England. On my mothers side, her mother come from Holland. Her daddy was from Scotland. I'm the second generation born in the United States. My dad and mother was first and then me and my brothers and sister are next.

ESK: Okay, so your oldest brother was born in 1901 and he's not living anymore.

BG: No. He would be 105 years old if he was still around. Then I had three babies that died while they was babies, young, real young. The one lived long enough he would crawl around. The women was cannin' some pickles and they was cuttin' ends off of em' and that baby eat some of em' and the indigestion killed him. I went down to where they was buried when I went down there and I couldn't find nothin'. That [burial] lot looks like it's empty. There is nothin' there, no sign of nothin' there. I was the one that put flowers there. I put flowers on my grandpa and grandma's grave. I was about six year old when I left there and I went just over the hill from em'. My dad's two brothers lived there and they done real well raisin' a family and lived right there on the old, well it was a colony deal that he took up back in the 1800's. My dad, they give my dad a piece of ground and he didn't stay on it. I was born on it. That house burned down. When I was down there three years ago last spring, the only house that was left was the one that my youngest sister was born in. Where we went over and stayed, they all birthed their children at home back in them days, and the house where we stayed, the reason I can remember so much

about this is, they fed a calf some water out of a bucket and it had little horns. The bail hooked over his head and they couldn't get it off. I was little and I remembered that and I was only three years old. Three years and so many months old and I still remember that. I remember the first time I seen my sister. I was the baby and when she was born I'd lost the baby part of it. It hurt me when she was born and took my place.

ESK: So your brother was born in 1901 and you had three brother in between and then you and you said something about a set of twins when we were out talking on the couch. Who had a set of twins that died?

BG: Well, my wife and her sister was twins. My first wife was a twin. Her sister was sickly and she is still alive. But this one was so mean that it finally killed her.

ESK: Was your baby sister that took your place, is she still alive?

BG: She is still alive and lives in California. She's got seventeen acres up there in the Sierra Mountains. She got a log house up there. The porch goes all the way around the house. She heard somethin' up there and she went back in the house to see what it was. There walkin' across the floor was a bunch of little wild pigs. There is a lot of wild life up in that area.

ESK: I thought you were going to tell me there was a bear in her house.

BG: There is bear and lions up there.

ESK: Did you ever do any hunting?

BG: I used to do a lot of hunting. Elk and Deer. Down in Oklahoma we used to do lots of duck hunting. That is one reason why he [Dad] me. We lived there in Norman, Oklahoma. At the time we was working for these people, gatherin' their crops. They was just an old people. I was down there fishin' and them guys had a lease to hunt out of Oklahoma City, which wasn't very far. It made my dad mad and he beat me with a clincher off of one of them old time casings. That was the first time that he brought the blood out of me. It run down into my shoes. The next time that hickory tree comes up, it's as big as your finger and I don't care what you done, you couldn't hurt that tree. You cut it down and use it for a whip on your kids like me. He took the blood out of me with that. I didn't come home from school like I should have. I worked hard and when we were staying down there to Eldorado we rented this place. We had six mules and two young horses. We had to break them horses to work. I had three on em' to plow. We broke the pastures up. We didn't keep the pastures, we broke em' up and put em' into cultivation. He said, "I don't want my teams out trying to rustle somethin' to eat. I'm goin' to feed em' in there and I want you to see that I have the feed or I won't run your place. So he give up the worst team he had. He had thirty some odd head of mules. He come down there and said that I had the best lookin' mules and horses of any farm I got. He said that he give us the worst ones he had. I had to hold that walking plow, turning plow to turn that sod over and you would hit that mesquite and it was like hitin' so much iron.

ESK: Is mesquite the kind of dirt it is?

BG: Mesquite trees, it is the roots. They never seem to rot under there. You never even see em' They stay right there forever. You don't even see em' and you hit that and that team doesn't stop why they just strip everything off the end of that turning plow. I went right over the deal on top of it. I went back and fixed it and got it goin' again. Boy, I tell you, them mesquite is tough. We used to grub it out and that's the wood we had to burn and cook our meals with. It is real good wood. It's really hard wood. You can't hardly cut it, it's so hard. Then three heads would strip that plow right off and took me right over the plow.

ESK: Do you remember when they brought the Elk into Vernal on the trucks?

BG: Yah. Ern Caldwell did that. He got em' from Yellowstone. They give em' to the State.

ESK: They took them up and unloaded them on the Ashley Forest. I had no idea that we didn't have Elk. That they had to bring in Elk to supply the forest.

BG: Milt [Hacking] ran sheep up in the Ballies and he said that there has always been Elk up there. He said not many but there has always been some Elk in the country. They didn't bring em' all in here.

ESK: Milt Hacking said this.

BG: Yah, see Hacking Lake is named after him. He took his pack string and packed the fish back there and planted em'. He said that there wasn't no fish back there till' he planted em'.

ESK: Mr. Swasey over to Altamont, he was telling Terry one day that he went with his father going in and packing in milk cans of fish up to the mountain lakes.

BG: Yah. That is the way that Milt did it. I thought it wasn't quite right but I was readin' about em' planted the fish. Along time ago there wasn't no fish in these streams and the government went in there and planted a lot of fish for the Indian Department. It is an amazing thing. That we waited so long to plant the wild turkeys here. We got a lot of wild turkeys now. They don't hurt anything cause they are way out. They got some down here in the valley but they have done real good. That Mariam turkeys is really a fast smaller type of turkey than the Rio Grande and it can get off the ground and get away from the coyotes. They are really an alert type of a turkey.

ESK: The coyotes are coming in closer than they have ever been before.

BG: Yah. They are just right over here in the draw. Down here where Thorlaksen's live [704 East 500 North]. They would go right up through there. Los Angeles, there is one heck of a lot of coyotes, right in the city. They are not afraid of you and you can't shoot em'. You can't shoot in the city. They have just gone domestic and they are a real nuisance to the

people and trash cans and everything else. You see one every once in a while run over on the freeway.

ESK: Can you think of anything else that you want to tell us?

BG: Well, I can't think of anything else. I know that I've said about five percent of what I've been through. There are a lot of things that I don't remember right off the top of my head.

ESK: Thank you Barney.

One the evening of the 15th Barney called me at my home and said he had thought of more things that he would like to tell in his history. We made arrangement for him to come to the Regional History Center the next day to continue his history.

ESK: Barney, what would you like to tell us.

BG: I want to tell me about my wife a helpin' me when I was movin' the cat. She was always there to help. We was on the mountain up there and I had an old truck that wouldn't pull up them little hills. She had the pick up on the front of me and I pulled her down so she had to change gears and when she hit it she broke the chain. I motioned for her to go on up. I could make it then. I had kind of leveled out. I got up there and she said, "Don't you say a word. I'm all that you can afford." I thought that was quite a funny deal. I wanted to thank a lot more people for what they've done for me all these years. I have some real good people to help me. I got two sister-in-laws, Lois Gray and Dolly Shiner that has been a awful lot to me. I couldn't done it without em'. I couldn't have done things without em'. They wasn't only a sister to my wife, they were the best of friends. It just makes a lot of difference.

ESK: When your family wants to help because the like you, that's important.

BG: They knowed I couldn't do it. Lois knowed her husband couldn't do it and DeLoy [Shiner] died before Dolly. Dolly has been on her own for quite a while. Lois said that if she went before Marcell [Gray] that Marcell couldn't do that stuff that she was doin. Just like me, I couldn't do it, I never done it. My wife done it all the time. She was the bookworm of the family. Anyway I want to thank my kids for helpin' me. My kids helped me a awful lot. Jim and Karen, when Karen was alive, Jim helped me. He still helps me. I appreciate that. My grandson a helpin' me now. I got him home and I love him very much. He is doin' real well. He's got a nice job, a good job. He's learning a lot of things. We get along great. We got things now that is pretty well.

ESK: You're a team now.

BG: Yah. We get along great.

ESK: Yesterday while we were talking, I didn't ask you your first wife's name. What is her name?

BG: Birdie Jewell Boulard. This is the thing, we can go back and forth like this. Is that alright with you?

ESK: Yes, If you want to come in when ever you think of something you just come in. After I turned off the recorder we began to visit and realized that it needed to be turned back on. Barney is continuing to give more history in our conversation.

BG: Another thing, when she got bad, she couldn't get up out of her chair. I was working in the garden. I have always raised a beautiful garden. I was out there workin' in the garden. Somethin' just told me to go in the house. I went in the house and she was on the floor. She had one of them deals that you mash a button and it goes into Salt Lake and comes back. It is hooked to the phone. She said, "I wonder how long I had to wait for this blame thing before I pushed the button." I said, "Well, I'm here now." She said, "Yah, but you can't pick me up." I said, "Oh yes I can." I reached down and got her and sit her up in the chair and I said, "Now, don't get out of that chair." I had to quit the garden. I stayed with her, right by her side for the next two and one-half years. I would get her all ready for me to go get the groceries or the medication or what ever she needed. I would get her all ready and then I would go down and get what I had to get and then come right back.

ESK: You didn't take her in the car with you? She just stayed right at home.

BG: When she got so bad I left her at home. When we was goin' to the doctor I took her. We was goin' to Buxton over there and then she went to Dr. Robertson.

ESK: So you went to Dr. Buxton. Did you like Dr. Buxton?

BG: Oh yah! She loved him. She thought he was just out of this world.

ESK: We are doing a book that will contain Dr. Buxton's History along with the other Doctors of our area. He told us in his history about his horse days and his chasing horses.

BG: He was quite a horseman. He goes down in the Book Cliffs and rides down there alone. If he goes down in them bad places and if he ever got down there and got into trouble, why nobody would find him for a long time. He couldn't have told nobody where he went. He probably didn't even know for sure right where he was goin' to go till' he go down there. He just used to goin' and doin' what he wants to do.

ESK: He was a nice man.

BG: Oh yeah! He was. Dr. Robertson is a nice guy too.

ESK: I think he is still over to Roosevelt now isn't he? I think that is who my Dad goes to.

BG: Glen Robertson, he has been my doctor since I was goin' to Dr. White when I had my teeth pulled. I had Ecoli infection in me. I was that big here [touches jaw]. He cut me

open right here [touches chin on left side]. He put me in the hospital over ther

ESK: When they cut you open, was that to drain the infection out?

BG: Yah, that poison that come out of there was real black. It had an odor and would knock you down. I suffered. He didn't figure I was going to walk out of that hospital.

ESK: How long ago was this?

BG: I has been since before Leah got sick. See she had that operation in Salt Lake that was \$228,000. That was bad business. She did a lot of suffering. She suffered. But Dr. White, he cut me open. You can't give anything for pain when you're like that. You have to just take it. He ripped that open, boy it was sore. That E.coli infection it makes you body just real sore. When he cut that open and he got that out of there, he said, "I'm going to put you in the hospital." I said, "Well, whatever you say Doc, that's what we'll do." We went in there and I was there for three days and two nights. They checked on me about every twenty to twenty-five minutes, day and night." He said, "I fixed it to where you can have anything you want. If you don't get it, it's your own fault." I said, "Okay." I'm not to much on those pain killers. I don't like that kind of stuff.

ESK: So because of the E.coli, you had to have your teeth pulled?

BG: No, I had my teeth pulled first and I got it from the assembly line that he run you through. I won't call no names but he runs this advertisement in the Nickle Ads. He don't live here. He lives somewhere else.

ESK: I think that is who my sister, my mother and my dad have all went to.

BG: A lot of people went to him and they liked him. I don't.

ESK: I can understand why.

BG: Well, his instruments wasn't clean. He sewed me up with that Synome, or what ever you call it and it was contaminated. A lot of people thought I ought to sue him. I said, "No, I'm not the suing type. I don't believe in that. If that is what I got it from. The only thing I blamed him for was he knew that he was the doctor and he should know I had infection. I had infection real bad and I busted out right in there [touches underneath chin on right] after this was done. One night about eleven thirty, I was sittin' there readin when that busted. I didn't even know I had a sore under there. I had been so sore, I didn't pay much attention to what pain I was in. That's a part of my life.

ESK: Well, we are just going to add to this for a few days. If you think of more things you just come in.

After ending this short session, Barney and I continued to visit. We added more that day.

ESK: Okay, your Grandmother was a Fleming.

BG: She was an inviolate for sixty-eight years. She was in a wheel chair for sixty-eight years.
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lived to be ninety-nine years and six months old when she died. There was one thing
about

her, she believed in workin'. She would get on us kids for no doin' our chores. She would eat us up. She knowed how to do it. She would eat us up for not don't our chores. Naturally, as kids we would rather play. Course the old man, he didn't talk that much. He would use a club to get our attention.

ESK: Now, let's go back and I want to record who was married to Robert E. Lee Jr.

BG: My Aunt Betty Goodman Lee

ESK: So she was your father's sister.

BG: She was a lot older than my father. My dad and mother married about 1898 or 1899. I don't know just which.

ESK: Well for your oldest brother to be born in 1901, that would be logical.

BG: Usually, that is about the first thing that comes along is a child. She was really a nice person. He really had some nice people. Why he was the way he was, I could just never understand. Why he was so much different than the rest of em'. The rest of em' all had somethin'. All the girls and all the boys that was married off, they had nice livin' and a nice home.

ESK: So did you get along with your cousins.

BG: Oh yah! My brothers was big enough to associate with em'. They were good friends together. I was only nine-years-old when we left from there. When I left grandpa and them up there I was only five. We lived down there and done that pioneering down there on that place down there too. We didn't have shoes live they got now. I worked out there in the winter time barefooted. My feet got cold and I got cold but he wouldn't let me no brush on the fire that was burnin'. He didn't want me to get burnt. We used the 4th of July for one of our main events.

ESK: What did you look forward to there?

BG: Goin' up on the river and campin and goin' fishin'. We fished in the river. My dad caught a white fish there in that big hole in that Sibeian River. We had three families, there was my youngest sister, my brother, and my dad and mother and I can't remember how many was in the other families but we all had a big meal on that one fish. I was seven, eight, ten maybe fifteen pound fish. It was a white fish and they are good eatin'. They used to be in the Green River down here, now they're gone. They was a cannibalistic kind of a fish and they had a real wide mouth and they swallowed those Chuckle Heads. They have a real bad fins on em'. They find them big fish dead with the fins stickin' out through the side.

They would get inside and pull them fins out and kill the fish. The fins were as sharp as a needle on the end. They killed them fish off. Somebody planted em' in there or somethin'. I don't know what the real name was but we always called em' Chuckle Heads. (Might be Channel Cat Fish). They wouldn't be any longer than _____ but head would be this wide _____. The fins were sharp on each side and the top to. Three fins. They wasn't to bad eatin'. When somethin' eat em', they died.

ESK: Were they a boney fish?

BG: Oh yah. They got lots of bones. A little kid would have trouble eatin' em'. All those fine bones.

ESK: My mother would always make baking powder biscuits when we would have fish. The biscuit would help the bones go down if we happened to swallow one.

BG: Well, anyway it wasn't to hard to get that baking powder biscuit down. I love biscuits. I can't eat em'. My system won't take it. I was antibiotics for that jaw for four and half years. My system got really messed up with all that medicine. It killed every thing in my system. I couldn't digest nothin'. I was a bad deal. I take a lots of enzymes to digest my food. It works. I get pamphlets in the mail nearly every day. Wanting you to buy somethin'. You get it don't ya?

ESK: I get em' from the Republican Party and the Veterans. I contribute to the Republican Party and the Veterans.

BG: I'm a Republican too.

ESK: I think a lot of people around here are.

BG: I tell you why I'm a Republican. I got a good reason to be a Republican. That Democrat party, I don't think they're so good. Well, I was working for a full fledge Republican commissioners down there and those guys got me into that Democrat Central Committee and I went down and I looked around. I said, "Well, I don't believe there is anybody in here as bright as I am and I'm pretty poor. I believe I don't want anything to do with these people." I got up and walked out. You remember Bus Johnson?

ESK: No.

BG: He was an attorney here. He was a drunk. He was a Scotch Democrat. He was going to give this one ol' guy heck and he said, "Just a minute." Then he turned around and bragged on him. That's how they do. He ain't like my wife. She told Hugh Colton what she thought. She didn't pull no bones about it and they wanted to run her for commissioner.

ESK: Did she not like Hugh?

BG: See, they couldn't get nothin' done up there in that cemetery. She was on that board.

ESK: In the Maeser Cemetery?

BG: Ol' Lawrence Siddoway just laughed. He couldn't keep from laughin' about her eatin' ol' Hugh up. Hugh and him, they politic pretty much. Hugh and LaMar Smith and that bunch. Hugh and Whit [Hammond]. They were always good to me. I done some work up there for Hugh and I knew he had a bad name for not paying his bills. Any guy that would beat a guy out of shoeing a horse is pretty hard up, I can tell ya. It's just awful. I went over [to Hugh's place] and got that done. Hugh got the papers showin' I had a divorce so I could marry Leah and he charged me eighty-seven dollars for that then. That was a lot of money back then. I paid him fifty dollars. I still owed him twenty-seven dollars. I said, "Well, I ain't going to beat him out of it, but I'll owe him the rest of my life." That bothered me and bothered me. I done that work over there and he called me up and asked me how much he owed me and I told him how much it was and I said, "You take fifty dollars off, I owe you twenty-seven but I want to pay you some interest. That has just bothered me to death. I don't want know part of it." Hugh wrote me a check for the rest of it. My brother-in-law, John, was tellin' this guy about it and he said that there was no way that feller if you called him up and asked him how much he owed ya'. He said, "Well, he called Barney." I never got beat out of anything. Everybody always paid me. A guy tried to get me to pad my time workin' for the government. I said, "I want to tell you somethin' mister, all you owe me is what I turned in. I ain't turnin' another minute in. That's it." He said, "Well, we're isolated, we figured that you ought to have more money." I said, "I don't like to cheat you, if I cheat you I cheat the next guy. I'm not the cheatin' kind so I'm not goin' to cheat you either."

ESK: If you cheat the government you are only cheating yourself and the other taxpayers.

BG: You're cheatin' your friends. I just don't go for that. Steve Stringham, I was doin that work for him.

ESK: Was this up on Diamond?

BG: Up there on Diamond Gulch. There was a big wash come down through there. He hired me to build that dam that was up on the side of the mountain. [He wanted it cut into the mountain the wrong direction] I said, "Steve, I will cut right down to the bottom and drain your reservoir. If you got it plowed it don't dig so bad." He said, "No, no, do it. Thats the way I wanted." I said, "Okay, you're paying for it." Well, it did it and he anyway he told ol' Bry that's one thing about Barney. He said that is the most honest guy you'll ever see. Bry said to me, "And when a Stringham tells you that, by hell, you're an honest guy." Thank God I haven't had to cheat to live. I don't go for that.

ESK: I don't go for that either and neither does my husband. He is an honest man.

BG: You and him are more alike than ninety percent of the couples. You are both the same. Both of you. You're the same people. You ain't got nothing to be ashamed of.

ESK: Thank you!

BG: Well, any way that is enough.

Still the same day and more conversation continued with Barney.

ESK: Barney are you related to the Goodman's that were here in the early days.

BG: Well, Roger Goodman had a voice like my uncles and my brothers had. They looked a lot like it. My granddad settled in the east and he had a brother settle in the west. That is about as much story as I can give you on it. The old man Goodman settled in Brown's Park. He come down the Green River with Powell. He seen that and he got off the boat and stayed there. He married a squaw. He had a squaw for a wife. He had two boys with that squaw. I don't know where they are at or where they went or nothin'. That woman passed or somethin', I don't know what happened to her. He married a white girl and had Roger and I don't remember who else, but I know Roger was one of em'. I talked to Roger a lot of times before he passed away.

ESK: Did Roger have children?

BG: Yah, Wanda was her name. She lived in Dinosaur. She died. She had a son in her marriage so he wasn't a Goodman. He was somethin' else. I don't know what that name was. This guy's voice was like my uncles, my brothers and my grandpa and everything resembled. I always believed there was something there. He married a McCarrell. I can't remember her name but she was a McCarrell. Dora Goodman was her name! She was a McCarrell. I don't know for sure if that was Wanda's mother or not but it probably is.

ESK: I remember when I was a little girl, over on 2nd North there was people by the name of Goodman. They ran a little upholstery shop out of there home. Flynn used to go mow their lawn.

BG: Wanda was a cook down here at the Hotel Vernal. She was a cook in one of the other café's in town. She died out there in Dinosaur. She passed away.

More conversation with Barney the same day. He was telling more of his younger years. He at one time worked with the carnival.

ESK: Okay, you were helping to move the carnival.

BG: Yah, anyway they had this thing you hit with a big ball and the weight would go up and ring the bell. This feller that was with me was a big, big guy. He couldn't make that go up. I only weighed about 115 pounds then but I could ring that bell every time. He couldn't figure out how I could do it. I said, "I show you how to hit it and then you can do it." It's a trick the way you hit it. You kind of hit it like, [hit the back side of it]. Boy, that thing would go up there and ding that bell. That's the way you make it ring. These

carnivals used to break a lot of rides. I was with this carnival down here in Vernal. It broke with Dolly and them, sent out there and hurt em'. Dolly and another girl, I can't remember who the other girl was that got hurt. That ride broke with them and sent them out through there. This guy here took iron around to each welding outfit and had a guy weld it. He would check that weld out to see how much pressure it could take. He hired my brother-in-law to all the weldin' down there. He was that good. Marcell [Gray] is a good welder. He made that Sputnik for the high school kids. They sent it to the University of Utah. He welded that conduit pipe with an electric welder. They ain't many people that can do that. He wouldn't do anything less than it was perfect. He was just that kind of a guy. He done a good job.

BG: You know I always enjoyed my job. I never had a better job than here at the County. I could do things for people. I done thousands and thousands of hours of work that the commissioners don't know anything about. I never turned it in. I had guys come in there and they called em' cause they couldn't get a hold of me. My family always went on the mountain for the weekend. Take the kids fishin', my wife loved to fish. They called them to put some flares out, this one guy got another guy and they went out and they charged three hours a piece. That was six hours for puttin' out two flares. I told the commissioners, I said, "Now look, I've done this for nothin' for a long time. When I go out like that anymore you're goin' to pay me. I won't charge you for six hours. I won't charge you three hours unless it is down to Willow Creek somewhere." Around here it would only be an hour or two, that's all. I'm not going to do it anymore. If they were going to pay these other guys, I got a right to be paid just like these other guys.

The conversation continues on the recorder but it is a more personal nature. We will end the interview this way.

ESK: Barney you have really good health.

BG: Oh no I'm not, I just make myself go. I don't want to go. I tell you what I would rather be is anywhere than sittin' in that chair there. I know that will kill me, that chair will kill ya. So I get up and go. Daryl said, "Barney, that is the only reason you're livin. You don't sit there in that chair. Well, I am keepin' you from your work so I'm goin' to get out of here.

ESK: Thank you, Thank you, I love you Barney.

